

Subpart 408.11—Leasing of Motor Vehicles

408.1103 Contract requirements.

If the requirement includes the need for the vendor to provide operational maintenance such as fueling, lubrication, or other fluid changes or replenishment, the contracting officer shall include in the contract:

(1) A requirement for the use of fluids and lubricants containing the maximum available amounts of recovered materials, and alternative fuels whenever available; and

(2) A preference for retreaded tires meeting the Federal retread specifications, tires with the maximum recovered material content, or retreading services for the tires on the vehicle.

[70 FR 45, Jan. 3, 2005]

PART 409—CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS

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409.503 Waiver.

AUTHORITY: 40 U.S.C. 121, 41 U.S.C. 421.

SOURCE: 61 FR 53646, Oct. 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 409.4—Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility

409.403 Definitions.

Debarring official. Pursuant to the Secretary's delegations of authority in 7 CFR 2.24, the Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) is designated as the debarring official (Department Debarring Officer) with the following exceptions:

(a) For commodity contracts awarded on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), the Executive Vice President, CCC, or his designee is designated as the debarring official pursuant to 7 CFR part 1407.

(b) For contracts awarded under the School Lunch and Surplus Removal Programs (42 U.S.C. 1755 and 7 U.S.C. 612c), the Department Debarring Officer has delegated debarring authority to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

[63 FR 26995, May 15, 1998]

409.404 List of parties excluded from Federal procurement and nonprocurement programs.

The Department Debarring Officer is USDA's single point of contact with GSA for debarment and suspension actions taken under this subpart. The debarring official for AMS shall notify the Department Debarring Officer of each debarment and suspension action by promptly submitting a copy of the debarment or suspension notice and any later changes to the debarment or suspension status. The Department Debarring Officer will forward a copy of each notice to GSA for inclusion in the Government-wide list.

409.405 Effect of listing.

Compelling reasons are considered to be present where failure to contract with the debarred or suspended contractor would seriously harm the agency's programs and prevent accomplishment of mission requirements. The SPE is authorized to make the determinations under FAR 9.405. Requests for such determinations shall be submitted through the head of the contracting activity (HCA) to the SPE.

409.405–1 Continuation of current contracts.

The HCA is authorized to make the determinations under FAR 9.405–1.

409.405–2 Restrictions on subcontracting.

The HCA is authorized to approve subcontracts with debarred or suspended subcontractors under FAR 9.405–2.

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409.406 Debarment.

409.406-3 Procedures.

(a) *Investigation and referral.* When a contracting officer becomes aware of possible irregularities or any information which may be sufficient cause for debarment, the case shall be immediately referred through the HCA to the debarring official. The case must be accompanied by a complete statement of the facts (including a copy of any criminal indictments, if applicable) along with a recommendation for action. Where the statement of facts indicates the irregularities to be possible criminal offenses, or for any other reason further investigation is considered necessary, the matter shall be referred to the HCA who should consult with the Office of Inspector General to determine if further investigation is required prior to referring to the debarring official.

(b) *Decision-making process.* If, after reviewing the recommendations and consulting with the Office of Inspector General and Office of the General Counsel, as appropriate, the debarring official determines debarment is justified, the debarring official shall initiate the proposed debarment in accordance with FAR 9.406-3(c) and notify the HCA of the action taken.

(c) *Fact-finding proceeding.* For actions listed under FAR 9.406-3(b)(2), the contractor shall be given the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing. The hearing should be held at a location and time that is convenient to the parties concerned, if at all possible. The contractor and any specifically named affiliates may be represented by counsel or any duly authorized representative. Witnesses may be called by either party. The proceedings shall be conducted expeditiously and in such a manner that each party will have an opportunity to present all information considered pertinent to the proposed debarment. The contractor shall be provided a copy of a transcript of the proceedings under the conditions established in FAR 9.406-3(b)(2)(ii).

409.407 Suspension.

409.407-3 Procedures.

(a) *Investigation and referral.* When a contracting officer becomes aware of possible irregularities or any information which may be sufficient cause for suspension, the case shall be immediately referred through the HCA to the debarring official. The case must be accompanied by a complete statement of the facts along with a recommendation for action. Where the statement of facts indicates the irregularities to be possible criminal offenses, or for any other reason further investigation is considered necessary, the matter shall be referred to the HCA who should consult with the Office of Inspector General to determine if further investigation is required prior to referring it to the debarring official.

(b) *Decision-making process.* If, after reviewing the recommendations and consulting with the Office of Inspector General and Office of the General Counsel, as appropriate, the debarring official determines suspension is justified, the debarring official shall initiate the proposed suspension in accordance with FAR 9.407-3(c) and notify the HCA of the action taken.

(c) *Fact-finding proceedings.* For actions listed under FAR 9.407-3(b)(2), the contractor shall be given the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing, similar in nature to the hearing for debarments as discussed in 409.406-3(c).

Subpart 409.5—Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest

409.503 Waiver.

(a) The HCA, on a non-delegable basis, is authorized to waive any general rule or procedure in FAR 9.5 when in the Government's interest.

(b) Each request for waiver shall include:

(1) The general rule or procedure proposed to be waived;

(2) An analysis of the potential conflict, including the benefits and detriments to the Government and prospective contractors;

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(3) A discussion of why the conflict cannot be avoided, neutralized, or mitigated; and

(4) Advice of counsel obtained under FAR 9.504(b).

PART 410—MARKET RESEARCH

Sec.

410.001 Policy.

410.002 Procedures.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c)

SOURCE: 70 FR 45, Jan. 3, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

410.001 Policy.

In addition to those uses listed in FAR 10.001, agencies must use the results of market research to—

(a) Ensure the minimum use of hazardous or toxic materials;

(b) Ensure the maximum use of biobased products and biofuels; and

(c) Identify products and services on or eligible for addition to the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act Procurement List in order to achieve USDA's goal to increase participation in this program.

410.002 Procedures.

Market research must include obtaining information on the commercial quality assurance practices as an alternative for Government inspection and testing prior to tender for acceptance.

PART 411—DESCRIBING AGENCY NEEDS

Subpart 411.1—Selecting and Developing Requirements Documents

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411.101 Order of precedence for requirements documents.

411.103 Market acceptance.

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Subpart 411.2—Using and Maintaining Requirements Documents

411.202 Maintenance of standardization documents.

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Subpart 411.4—Delivery or Performance Schedules

411.404 Contract clauses.

Subpart 411.6—Priorities and Allocations

411.600 Scope of subpart.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

SOURCE: 61 FR 53646, Oct. 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 411.1—Selecting and Developing Requirements Documents

411.101 Order of precedence for requirements documents.

(a) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119 establishes a Federal policy requiring the use of voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical.

(b) The HCA is authorized to submit the determination required by OMB Circular A-119 that a voluntary standard is inconsistent with law or otherwise impracticable. The HCA must submit the determination to OMB through the National Institute of Standards and Technology in accordance with the Circular with a copy provided to the SPE.

[70 FR 45, Jan. 3, 2005]

411.103 Market acceptance.

(a) The head of the contracting activity (HCA) may determine that offerors must demonstrate, in accordance with FAR 11.103(a), the market acceptability of their items to be offered.

(b) The contracting officer shall place a copy of this determination, signed by the HCA, in the solicitation file.

411.106 Purchase descriptions for service contracts.

When contract personnel are to be used, the requiring official shall record on the requisition his or her determination whether harm to the Government might occur should contractor